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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY **Austria/Yugoslavia/USSR**

DATE DISTR. **17 January 1949**

SUBJECT **Status of Yugoslav-Soviet
Trade Relations in Austria**

NO. OF PAGES **2**

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PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: **DDA REG. 77/1763**

SOURCE

1. On 6 January 1949, according to statements made by *Stankovic* *By deputy* *027*
Yugoslav commercial attaché in Vienna, the Soviets in Vienna cut their re-
quest for Yugoslav agricultural produce to less than 30 percent of their
previous requirements. The produce purchase orders had previously been
submitted monthly; at present, they are being submitted quarterly. Cap-
tain Mashin, purchasing director for the Soviet Military Stores, allegedly
stated in confidence that he has been ordered to decrease his Yugoslav pur-
chases and increase his purchases from Bulgaria and Hungary, but doubted
that the latter two countries could satisfy Soviet requirements. **25X1A**
Comment: This is the first sign noted by source of a deterioration of
Yugoslav-Soviet trade relations in Vienna. This is not confirmed by other
current developments reported below.)
2. On 9 January, a Zagreb Minister of Trade official stated that the Central
Yugoslav Trade Ministry had concluded an agreement whereby Yugoslav fruit
pulp production for 1949, mostly apples, will be sold to the Soviets.
These shipments are to total more than 10,000 tons. **25X1A**
Comment: Three months prior to the above date, the Soviets had informed the Yugo-
slavs that they were not interested in fruit pulp.)
3. On 3 January, according to Stankovic, Osipov, head of USIA (Administration
of Soviet Property in Austria) Buying and Selling Department, agreed to per-
mit the Yugoslavs to purchase "transit goods" of all sorts in Vienna. **25X1A**
Comment: "Transit goods" refers to goods from abroad, which are
shipped through Austria and are not subject to Austrian taxes unless sold
while in transit. In this case, the law requires the payment of customs
duties on all goods other than those purchased by one of the occupation
powers.) Osipov will provide declarations certifying that the purchases
are intended for the use of Soviet forces, and the Yugoslavs will reimburse
USIA for this service. **25X1A**
Comment: This assistance was not provided
in previous transactions with the Yugoslav trade delegates in Vienna.)
Stankovic is seeking a wide variety of these transit goods, including pharma-
ceutical supplies and stationary. In the past, he had been interested solely
in tools, steel, metal products, machines, and other items on the priority
purchasing list issued by Belgrade.

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4. On 8 January, Stankovic stated that a large-scale reorganization is taking place in the Ministry of Trade in Belgrade, and that a drastic personnel shake-up is expected. At present, export-import activities of the Federal Republics are rigidly controlled by the Central Ministry. The Yugoslav trade delegation in Vienna hopes that the reorganization of the Trade Ministry will mean increased autonomy for the foreign trade committees of the republics.

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5. Source reports that the Soviets are increasingly desirous of selling USIA goods for schillings rather than Swiss francs, dollars, or compensation goods. [REDACTED] interprets this tendency, first observed in early December 1948, as a Soviet effort to build up a schilling reserve with a view to benefiting from the anticipated increase in schilling purchasing power and the possible stabilization of the schilling in the event of the conclusion of a peace treaty. [REDACTED] Comment: This confirms previous reports from other sources.)

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